answers to Unstarred Questions 2193 and 2200 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 1994 and state:

(a) when the work on the expansion of Bongaigaon refinery from existing 1.35 million tonnes to 2.35 million tonnes per annum will be completed; and

(b) how will the optimum crude oil requirement of the aforesaid refinery be met and will be met in future particularly in view of the reduced supply of crude oil from Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The expansion of Bongaigaon Refinery from 1.35 MT to 2.35 MT is scheduled to be mechanically completed by December, 1994.

(b) The production of crude oil from Assam is expected to increase in future and as a result crude availability for Bongaigaon Refinery would also improve.

Distribution of Kerosene to States

3968. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have reviewed the distribution system of Kerosene to various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check black marketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS: (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government keeps on reviewing the distribution system of Kerosene. Apart from allowing growth in the allocation of Kerosene to various States, the Central Government has also requested the State Governments to rationalise the system of retail distribution to identify points of diversion and to take steps to plug the loopholes to prevent blackmarketing of Kerosene so that it reaches the targeted groups in time and in desired quantities and at prescribed prices.

(d) In order to check blackmarketing of Kerosene, steps such as furfural doping of Kerosene, blue dyeing of Kerosene, sample testing by mobile laboratories and surprise inspections by field officers of Oil Companies and State authorities are undertaken.

Target of ONGC for crude oil production

3969. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by ONGC for the production of Crude Oil during the financial year 1994-95;

(b) whether ONGC has improved its performance during 1993-94;

(c) if not, the steps taken by ONGC to increase the performance so that the target set for 1994-95 is achieved; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The target for crude oil production by ONGC during 1994-95 has been fixed at 29.349 million tonnes.

(b) As against a crude oil production of 24.427 million tonnes by ONGC during 1992-93, their actual production during 1993-94 was 24.205 million tonnes.

(c) ONGC have initiated a number of short-term and medium-term measures to step up crude oil production. As a result, the production of crude oil by ONGC during the current year is expected to be about 5.144 million tonnes more than the production achieved by them last year. The production of crude oil vis-a-vis target is closely monitored on a monthly basis, regionwise.

Proposal for setting up a bottling plant in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

3970. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh to set up a bottling plant at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh; and